

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1        1.    A method of assigning functions to be represented by the  
2    keys of a keypad on a cover lid of a mobile communication device,  
3    the method comprising:

4            detecting whether the cover lid is in a first position or  
5    a second position;

6            assigning a first set of functions to be represented by  
7    the keys when the cover lid is detected in the first position; and

8            assigning a second set of functions to be represented by  
9    the keys when the cover lid is detected in the second position.

10       2.    The method according to claim 1, further comprising  
11   displaying a graphical template of the keys on an inner face of the  
12   cover lid, the template showing a position of the keys and the  
13   second set of functions to be represented by the keys.

14       3.    The method according to claim 1, wherein assigning the  
15   second set of functions results in a position of at least two of  
16   the keys been swapped relative to assigning the first set of  
17   functions.

18       4.    The method according to claim 1, wherein assigning the  
19   second set of functions results in a position of the keys being  
20   rotated by 90 degrees relative to assigning the first set of  
21   functions.

1           5.    The method according to claim 1, wherein assigning the  
2 second set of functions results in a position of the keys being  
3 rotated by 180 degrees relative to assigning the first set of  
4 functions.

1           6.    The method according to claim 1, wherein the second set  
2 of functions includes a null value to be represented by at least  
3 one key.

1           7.    The method according to claim 1, further comprising  
2 indicating on a surface of the keys the second set of functions.

1           8.    The method according to claim 7, wherein the indicating  
2 step includes forming raised symbols on the surface of the keys.

1           9.    The method according to claim 7, wherein the indicating  
2 step includes forming Braille characters on the surface of the  
3 keys.

1        10. A mobile communication device having a keypad and keys  
2 mounted on a cover lid, comprising:

3            a memory unit configured to store a first set of  
4 functions and a second set of functions to be represented by the  
5 keys;

6            a detector unit capable of detecting a movement of the  
7 cover lid from a first position to a second position; and

8            a control unit connected to the memory unit and the  
9 detector unit, the control unit configured to assign the first set  
10 of functions to the keys when the cover lid is detected in the  
11 first position, and to assign the second set of functions to the  
12 keys when the cover lid is detected in the second position.

1        11. The mobile communication device according to claim 10,  
2 further comprising a graphical template of the keys displayed on an  
3 inner face of the cover lid, the template showing a position of the  
4 keys and the second set of functions to be represented by the keys.

1        12. The mobile communication device according to claim 10,  
2 wherein assignment of the second set of functions results in a  
3 position of at least two of the keys being swapped relative to  
4 assignment of the first set of functions.

1        13. The mobile communication device according to claim 10,  
2 wherein assignment of the second set of functions results in a  
3 position of the keys being rotated 90 degrees relative to  
4 assignment of the first set of functions.

1 14. The mobile communication device according to claim 10,  
2 wherein assignment of the second set of functions results in a  
3 position of the keys being rotated 180 degrees relative to  
4 assignment of the first set of functions.

1 15. The mobile communication device according to claim 10,  
2 wherein the second set of functions includes a null value to be  
3 represented by at least one key.

1 16. The mobile communication device according to claim 10,  
2 wherein a surface of the keys includes tactile indicators of the  
3 second set of functions.

1 17. The mobile communication device according to claim 16,  
2 wherein the tactile indicators include raised symbols.

1 18. The mobile communication device according to claim 16,  
2 wherein the tactile indicators include Braille characters.

1           19. A keypad for a mobile communication device, comprising:  
2           a plurality of mechanical keys mounted on the keypad and  
3 capable of performing a first set of functions and a second set of  
4 functions;

5           the plurality of mechanical keys configured to perform  
6 the first set of functions when a predetermined event has not  
7 occurred; and

8           the plurality of mechanical keys configured to perform  
9 the second set of functions when the predetermined event has  
10 occurred.

1           20. The keypad according to claim 19, wherein the mechanical  
2 keys include numeric keys.

1           21. The keypad according to claim 19, wherein the mechanical  
2 keys include alphabetic keys.

1           22. The keypad according to claim 19, wherein the mechanical  
2 keys include alpha-numeric keys.

1           23. The keypad according to claim 19, further comprising a  
2 pointing device capable of performing a first set of functions and  
3 a second set of functions;

4           the pointing device configured to perform the first set  
5 of functions when the predetermined event has not occurred; and

6           the pointing device configured to perform the second set  
7 of functions when the predetermined event has occurred.

1           24. The keypad according to claim 19, wherein the  
2 predetermined event includes pressing one or more predefined keys.

1           25. The keypad according to claim 19, wherein the  
2 predetermined event includes initiating one or more predefined  
3 applications in the mobile communication device.

1           26. The keypad according to claim 19, further comprising a  
2 cover lid, wherein the predetermined event includes opening the  
3 cover lid.